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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017583

STADIS//
FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT CAPE TOWN 0074 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO JOHANNESBURG &
PRETORIA DTD 20 JAN 78

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0074

STADIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, BTRA, SF
SUBJ: HENRY FORD DISCUSSION WITH PRIMIN VORSTER

REF: STATE 015488

CONGEN JOHANNESBURG HAS SUPPLIED ME WITH THE FOLLOWING
REPORT ON THE FORD VISIT, WHICH THE DEPT WILL FIND
USEFUL IN CONNECTION WITH REFTELL:

1. BEGIN QUOTE: HENRY FORD DID NOT APPEAR FOR MEETING ARRANGED
FOR HIM AT CONSULATE JAN 17 WITH SIX DISTRINGUISHED BLACKS.
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HE WAS FATIGUED. THREE FORD COMPANY EXECUTIVES DID COME
(PETERSON, MECKIE, FREDERICKS). WHILE ALL OF BLACKS
WERE DISAPPOINTED, THOSE TO WHOM APOLOGY WAS MOST DUE
WERE SHEN CHETTY, WHO CURTAILED DURBAN VISIT AND FLEW
BACK TO JOHANNESBURG, AND BALDWIN MADAU, WHO CANCELLED
SCHEDULED PRESENCE AS SPEAKER ON SABC BANTU NETWORK.

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2. MEETING WENT REASONABLY WELL. FORD EXECUTIVES TOOK POINT THAT BLACKS EXPECT MORE FROM MULTINATIONALS THAN ADHERENCE SULLIVAN GUIDELINES AND REMOVAL PETTY APARTHEID. THEY EXPECT ACITIVE DEFIANCE TO LAWS LIKE INFLUX CONTROL. FORD EXECUTIVES SAID THEY WOULD LOOK AT POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING BLACK WORKERS AND TRAINEES TO PORT ELIZABETH PLANT FROM NON-CAPE PROVINCES AND HOMELANDS. THEY SEEMED PLEASED WITH MEETING, WHICH CONSIDERED EYE-OPENER REGARDING RADICALISM OF BLACK VIEWS.

3. FOLLOWING MEETING, FREDERICKS GAVE CONGEN CAPSULE ACCOUNT OF FORD'S MEETING JAN 16 WITH PRIMIN. (FREDERICKS WAS NOT PRESENT, BY DESIGN BASED ON ANALYSIS PRIMIN WOULD BE LESS FORTHCOMING WITH FORMER BUREAUCRAT.) AFTER EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, VORSTER DISCOURSED FOR 20-25 MINUTES ON US POLICY, "HAMMERING" POINT THAT IT WAS FOR "ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE." (FREDERICKS SAID THAT AT THIS POINT FORD AND COMPANY WERE ACUTELY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR BRIEFING SO THAT THEY KNEW SCORE AND COULD NOT BE BOWLED OVER BY VORSTER.) FORD RESPONDED THAT SUCH WAS NOT HIS UNDERSTANDING, THAT "FULL PARTICIPATION" WAS WHAT HAD BEEN STATED, AND THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR BOWDLER. VORSTER SAID THAT IF AMB BOWDLER DISAGREED, HE WAS GUILTY OF UNTRUTH AND FORD AND COMPANY COULD GO AND REPORT CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT TO AMB BOWDLER. VORSTER SAID HE HAD PROOF HE WAS RIGHT. (HE WAVED PAPER, WITH USIS LETTER-HEAD, WHICH CONGEN INFERS WAS COPY OF MONDALE MAY PRESS CONFERENCE). (COPIES OF THAT STATEMENT AND FOLLOW-UP OCTOBER INTERVIEW WITH POGRUND WERE SUPPLIED TO FREDERICKS.)

4. ON NAMIBIA, VORSTER ACCUSED FIVE POWERS OF IMPOSING SWAPO ON SA. FORD AND COMPANY RESPONDED THAT IT WAS PRUDENT TO INVOLVE SWAPO IN PROCESS TO AVOID ENDLESS CONFLICT. VORSTER SAID NO.

5. ON RHODESIA, VORSTER ACCUSED US, UK, AND FRONT-LINE STATES OF FOISTING PATRIOTIC FRONT ON RHODESIA. IF HANDS WERE KEPT OFF RHODESIA, MUZOREWA WOULD WIN OUT AND OTHERS WOULD GO NOWHERE.

6. ON DOMESTIC SIDE, VORSTER MADE ABSOLUTELY "DOCTRINAL" PRESENTATION, SHOWING FIRM RESOLVE TO PURSUE PRESENT POLICIES AND SUGGESTING NO GIVE AT ALL. HE DID NOT COMMENT ON FORD COMPANY'S POLICIES OR EFFORTS IN ANY WAY. END QUOTE.BOWDLER UNQUOTE VANCE

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